

Czernin Never Talked Peace With Wilson

But Pourparlers Are Held With Teuton Envoys in Switzerland

Conferences Bring No Understanding

Eventually, It Is Expected, Secret Peace Moves Will Be Made by Foe

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, April 6.—Count Czernin, Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, has never addressed the United States, it was declared at the State Department today. The American government, it was made plain, had not been in communication with the enemy governments, but there have been some discussions in Switzerland between Americans and persons who claimed to represent the Teutonic powers.

Such discussions, it was pointed out, are going on constantly and come within the experience of all belligerents. So far as could be learned, however, none of the exchanges of views was sought upon the initiative of the United States. For obvious reasons the substance of whatever has been communicated to Americans by persons professing to be authorized by enemy governments has been transmitted to Washington by this country's representatives in Switzerland.

Pourparlers Cause Interest

The mere fact that personages have been authorized by the Entente nations to meet spokesmen for the Central Empires in Switzerland, as disclosed in the official Paris announcement, caused widespread interest in Switzerland. It was not generally known that such contact with the enemy had been experienced. The fact that the conferences brought forth no results promotes an understanding, but have ended in the exchange of recriminations, produced the impression that for the present there is nothing to expect from similar meetings in neutral countries.

At the same time a conviction has resulted that eventually, in the absence of a military decision involving the complete defeat and unconditional surrender of Germany, the peace pourparlers will be secretly inaugurated by the enemy groups in a manner similar to that which has just failed in Switzerland.

Secret Moves Expected

It is believed here that in the event of the final failure of Germany to break through the Western front, Austria-Hungary, again at Germany's instigation, will attempt to set afoot in Switzerland a discussion of peace preliminaries with the Allied powers, in the meantime maintaining in Switzerland persons of high rank and recognized official position who will avail themselves of any opportunity to advance the peace movement.

An Entente diplomat said today: "Czernin has tried to cheat everybody, especially the United States, but America has not fallen into his trap, and now no one is in doubt concerning what the Vienna Foreign Minister is up to. His game is a smart one, however, and requires careful watching."

Americans Will Surprise Germans, Says Lloyd George

Continued from page 1

where it gives expression. American troops are daily taking their place in the battle line, and this in-

creases more than ever the confidence with which we patiently look forward to the ultimate victory of our united efforts in defence of the rights and liberties of civilization.

"GEORGE, R. I."

Balfour's Tribute

Foreign Secretary Balfour said the meaning of America's action had not thus far been appreciated in this country. To realize what it means, Englishmen must ask themselves whether Great Britain would have taken the same course in the same circumstances. Mr. Balfour said it was impossible to exaggerate the services America was rendering and the sacrifice she was making freely by temporarily waiving her ambitions for great national army by brigading troops with the British and French.

Ambassador Page, the guest of honor, replying in behalf of America, expressed the great appreciation of Americans for the remembrance of the anniversary and the many kindnesses and help which the Americans had received at the hands of the British since their entry into the war. Continuing, he said:

"You earnestly welcomed our troops and the constant stream of them which since has poured through this kingdom has been met by innumerable kindnesses. Your government has thrown open all doors to helpful information and has dealt with us as it deals with its own people."

Page Praises Naval Patrol

Ambassador Page referred, among other things, to the British naval patrol "risking the lives of our men" from the torpedoed steamship Tuscania and the unselfish kindness on that occasion of the people of Scotland and Ireland, from the highest to the humblest dwellers on those rough coasts. Mr. Page then spoke of the efforts American had made, saying the United States had built a vast military structure on a broad basis.

The reading by the ambassador of General Pershing's words to General Foch when the American commander placed the American troops at the disposal of the Entente Allied commander, evoked a great round of applause, as did his reference to President Wilson's resolve "to see the struggle through to the end."

"Hurrying Millions"

"In this hour of the supreme test," said Ambassador Page in his address, "we are hurrying and we will come in as many millions as are needed—come along with you and our French companions-in-arms so to redden the fields of France that rulers or nations that hereafter meditate conquest will see there the price freemen paid for freedom, and will hesitate and desist."

"Your heroic example makes our part of the task easier. It will be an immortal experience to share your unyielding endurance. No nation that helps stay this plague will ever outlive the glory of its achievement or the thanks of succeeding generations."

"We have to thank you especially for your sure shield against the subjection of the seas and threatened attacks on the lands beyond this. For this we speak our appreciation with a new understanding, and this understanding will never pass from our grateful recollection."

The ambassador alluded to Mr. Balfour as "our good friend through his long public career, whose speech stirs us to higher effort," and assured him that his historic service to us was already being remembered by the heroic moods of our nation and will so abide in our appreciative annals."

Presents American Flag

In concluding his speech Ambassador Page presented to the City of London, in the name of the American officers stationed here, an American flag "in token of our appreciation of your kind remembrance of this day and of our appreciation also of this distinguished gathering in our honor."

The flags of America and Great Britain flew together over the Mansion House. The guests included the ambassador and ministers of the Allied countries, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Earl of Derby, Lord Milner, the Marquis of Crewe, Sir Eric Geddes, Lord Robert Cecil, Admiral Wemyss, Admiral Jellicoe, Winston Spencer Churchill, General Sir William Robertson, Sir R. B. Finlay, Vice-Admiral Sims, and representatives of the dominions and colonies. A band of the Grenadier Guards played American airs.

There was another celebration at the Eagle Hut of the Young Men's Christian Association, where a band of the Guards gave a concert for men of the army and navy, many of whom are in London on leave. The special services will be held in many churches.

Northcliffe's Message

The Lord Mayor, having read the telegram from the King and Premier Lloyd George, said he had also received one from Lord Northcliffe, who declared that the Americans were coming in thousands, hundreds of thousands, and millions, if necessary, to make victory certain.

Secretary Balfour, in proposing a

toast commemorating the entry of the United States into the war, said he did not believe at this moment among those fighting for the Allies was any community to be found which more clearly understood what were the issues at stake or was more firmly determined to see the issues brought to a successful conclusion than the United States. All had come to the conclusion that while there was room on earth for the free development of all peoples there was no room for both the ideals cherished by the German military party and the ideals cherished by the great free democracies of the world. One or the other must prevail. They could not flourish side by side.

Could anything be more painful, he demanded, than the loss of which President Wilson's declaration of policy had been put by the Central Powers? All their statesmen who had praised the principles expressed by the President had at the very moment when they came to be carried out, cynically violated them without reproach by their own people.

"Cannot War by Rhetoric"

After declaring that all the bountiful lines the Central Powers had, in the East had been made in violation of ethnological and national principles, in order to sow the seeds of future dissensions, so that the Central Powers might work the will of their people, Mr. Balfour said:

"We cannot make war by rhetoric or secure peace by fine phrases. Our Russian friends are beginning to learn that truth."

He declared he thought that the present leaders of Russia really believed that they could bring an end to the war by appealing to the better instincts of peoples or sections of peoples of the world, and added:

"I am one of those who have an unyielding faith in the Russian people, and I look forward to the time when they will be not only independent and united, but every assistance we can give them in that painful upward struggle will be given."

"The illusions which brought Russia to her present position have never been entertained by our friends on either side of the Atlantic. They have always, in cherishing the ideals in which they believe, known that they would have in the last resort to fight for those ideals, and they have always understood that in this great battle between darkness and light sacrifices were inevitable, and they have shown that they were ready to make those sacrifices to the fullest extent."

An Imposing Sight

"It is an imposing sight to see a great nation, hitherto solely engaged in the paths of peace, whose worst enemy could never suggest that it had military ambitions, devoting all its energies, all its powers of sacrifice and all its wealth in men, ability and resources to the service of the cause in which we believe. And surely no greater proof was ever given of its devotion to the common cause than has been given recently by President Wilson and the American government, in agreeing to allow the troops of America to fight in the first instance, not as an American army, but with British and French troops on the Western front."

"I am not sure that every one in this room can appreciate the full magnitude of this sacrifice and what policy it involves. I do not believe that it would seriously delay what we should all like to see—a great American army fighting as an American army side by side with the British, French and Italian and the other Allies. The sacrifice has been made for a great international cause and because the President and the community whom he represents have thoroughly realized how much depends upon the fighting in the West in the next few months, and have felt that all smaller obstacles must be swept out of the way, that the great and final end may be achieved."

Italy Honors U. S.

Entry Into the War

ROME, April 6.—At the celebration of the anniversary of America's entrance into the war, Senator Berenini, Minister of Public Instruction, presented Thomas Nelson Page, the American Ambassador, with an ancient statue representing Victory, recently unearthed in the Roman Forum.

The gift is an exceptional token of friendship, a special law being required to enable the nation to part with possession of it. The idea of the presentation originated with Premier Orlando, who, however, was not present at the ceremony, having left for the front.

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London Celebrates Entrance of America in Great War

English People, Hard Pressed on Anniversary of Great Event, See That Victory Must Come Through Efforts of the United States

By Arthur S. Draper

(Tribune Cable Service)

LONDON, April 6.—Three thousand miles away from the battlefront no one can appreciate the anxiety of the British in the last fortnight. With lightning rapidity the whole complexion of the war was changed, and the British people awoke to find themselves engaged in a struggle for their very existence.

There have been many kaleidoscopic changes in the last four years, but none has been more dramatic than that which has come to pass since the British, battered but unbeaten, the British have this grave moment with a calm confidence, more restrained than that of the French, but equally as strong.

To-day's commemoration of the entry of the United States into the war divides interest with the great battle still raging on the plains of Picardy. For a whole year Britons and Americans have talked of closer relations between the great European and the Western democracies; they have exchanged a host of high compliments and they have pledged their resources to the common cause of the world's battling. But it remained for adversity to unite them.

Britain Sore Pressed

Great Britain is sore pressed. She faces sacrifices greater by far than those which she has already suffered. Union has fallen and all fall for some time to come. A tremendous wall that would break any nation that was not sound at the core.

All of America's material help, her

ships of food, her tremendous financial advances, have been highly appreciated, but upon the masses all these things have made little impression, as compared with her decision to throw in her military strength where-ever it could be used to the greatest common good. That act proved to the Britons the reality of the sacrifices America is prepared to make, and has filled them with a confidence and gratitude which have done much to gratify their anxiety.

So to-day the British press devotes many columns to America, her President and her people. There has been nothing like it before by way of demonstration, not even a year ago, when America took her stand against the enemy.

Victory Depends on America

Then the Allied future looked brighter, and America's decision to join in the struggle was considered only as a step which made victory doubly certain. To-day the Allies know that victory depends upon the American effort—military, economic and financial.

The King's message to the President voices the universal feeling of his people. The Lord Mayor gave a luncheon to the Congress of the American people some four hundred of the most prominent Allied personages in London. Arthur J. Balfour declared to America that the Allied nations that he believed that the present anniversary would continue to be celebrated throughout history as one of the world's most important anniversaries. Mr. Balfour said particular stress upon the American recently given permission to brigade their troops with the English and French.

Press of England Praises Work of America in First Year of the War

LONDON, April 6.—Most of the leading editorials in this morning's London newspapers are devoted to the anniversary of America's entry into the war, while the illustrated papers give prominence to pictures of the American soldiers on the Western front. There is unity in praise for the achievements of the year by the United States in her war making programme and also tribute by all to the leadership of President Wilson.

"In this hour of anxiety and sorrow," says "The Daily Telegraph," "we have still only to be worthy ourselves of our cause to reap at length the victory of right, that was assured to civilization by the act of the American people a year ago."

Some of the other editorial expressions are: "Daily Express"—"We are proud that American soldiers, vigorous and markedly serious, as men intrusted with a great mission, and finely masculine, are actually fighting in our ranks. We know that America is only beginning. Our faith in ultimate victory is doubly assured by the knowledge that the young and unconquerable West, strong in its belief in its destiny, unrivalled in its resources and ever scoring all half measures, is standing with us in the ranks of the world's hungry for victory and determined to think of nothing and care for nothing except the liberation of the world from militarism and tyranny."

"Daily Chronicle"—"Never has a more sacred bond united warring peoples than that which now joins the English-speaking, the French and Italian democracies in their common effort of Europe, from henceforth the United States must exercise influence in every quarter of the globe. The resources of America are so great that, given the requisite preparation, America could fight Germany alone. Therefore, while the German armies, war worn and battered, are waning, the forces opposed to them wax daily more powerful. America, as we in this country look forward to the continuation of the friendship uniting in the common cause America and England as a strong guarantee of the peace of the world, so we cannot but perceive that the fulfillment of that aspiration depends upon the sentiment of a race which to the alien is incomprehensible and to which he is hostile."

"Times"—"The warm and stirring message which King George telegraphed to President Wilson fitly expresses the feeling of the whole British nation regarding the generous ardor with which the American troops are joining in the great battle."

"Daily Graphic"—"That a nation of 100,000,000 people should have resolved to go to war for an ideal is looked at fairly as a marvellous triumph of civilization."

The anniversary is receiving great attention from the French press. The newspapers comment extensively upon

the accomplishments of the United States and the difficulties which must be overcome. These several writers say, are perhaps realized more fully in France than in America. The various reviews of what has been achieved in the way of shipbuilding, the naval operations against submarines, the training of an army and the financial assistance extended to the Allies are written in a spirit of admiration and recognition of their significance.

The press throughout the country emphasizes the disinterestedness of Americans, their earnestness, their devotion to the principles of free government and that rights of all peoples. Much is said of the American point of view, reaching beyond temporary national interests toward a larger ideal of the future for themselves and for other peoples.

One point which is brought into relief is the spirited manner in which General Pershing offered the American army now in France for the present battle.

Austria Repeatedly Sought Peace Parley, Asserts Painleve

PARIS, April 6.—In view of the official announcement yesterday that Premier Clemenceau, on assuming office, found that conversations had been entered into in Switzerland between representatives of France and Austria, on Austria's initiative, Professor Paul Painleve, who preceded M. Clemenceau as Premier, to-day issued the following explanatory statement:

"During 1917 Austria made several attempts to open semi-official negotiations with the Entente Allies. Notable in June, 1917, I was advised by the Second Bureau that Austria, through the personage of Count Revetata, had several times asked through a Swiss intermediary for an interview with the officer attached to the Secrecy Bureau, Major Armand, a distant relative."

"Alexandre Ribot, then Premier, having been consulted, Major Armand and Count Revetata met in August, 1917. The matter stopped there, and no interview took place from August until November, when I left office. The events which occurred afterward naturally are unknown to me, but I presume that, after the statement made by Premier Clemenceau, Count Revetata returned to the charge."

Tennyson's Son Pays Tribute to America

[By The Associated Press]

BELFAST, Ireland, April 6.—In a symposium of messages from prominent persons on the anniversary of America's declaration of war, gathered by "The Belfast Telegraph," Lord Tennyson, a son of the famous poet, sent this extract from one of his father's poems:

Giants daughter of the West,
We drink to thee across the flood,
We know thee most, we love thee best,
For art not thou of British blood?
Hail all-round!

God, the tyrant's cause confound,
To our great kinsmen of the West, my friend,
And the great cause of freedom
Round and round.

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